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Massachusetts Black Sea Bass Commercial Fishery to Close through September 30

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the National Marine Fisheries Service have projected that the 2000 commercial quota among all states for quarter III (July – September) has been taken. On July 20, NMFS announced a closure effective Tuesday July 25 for all federal permit holders. This means that the commercial fishery for federal permit holders will be closed during the period beginning Tuesday July 25 through September 30.

Massachusetts DMF has extended the open season for two days to notify permit holders, and enacted a closure effective July 27. **For state permit holders the closure will be July 27 – September 30.** During this period commercial fishermen are prohibited from fishing for - or possessing - black sea bass, and dealers are prohibited from purchasing black sea bass from fishermen as well. Fishing will re-open on October 1 for the next three-month quarter and the trip limit will be 2,000 lbs.

Fishermen are reminded that the recreational bag limit is 20 black sea bass and sale is prohibited. DMF thanks you for your cooperation.

For more information, contact DMF's Boston office at 617-626-1520.